

Andrew Jackson to William Charles Cole Claiborne, February 3, 1815, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO GOVERNOR CLAIBORNE.

New Orleans, February 3, 1815.

at a time like the present, when the enemy again threaten an invasion of our Territory, it is with pain and regret, I learn the neglect and dereliction from duty by several of the Louisiana Regts. stationed at camp Villery for the protection of the Bayou Beavenue,¹ untill the contemplated fortification can be compleated, you having assumed the command of the Louisiana Militia, through you Sir I expected to be informed of this dereliction of duty and desertion from their Posts, both of officers and men. When Inspected yesterday, the Regts of Dusongs and Cavalier there were from fifteen to Twenty Colo Dusong and one Lt. which were not peraded, altho notified by gene[r]al order. Subordination must exist in an army or it becomes worse than a mob—and it now appears, that coercion and punishment must be resorted to Enforce subordination and prevent desertion, and neglect of duty. you will therefore forthwith cause every officer and soldier, to be reported, as deserters who were found absent at any time without proper authority from their Posts, and who were absent on the first and second of this instant from Camp Villery,

¹ The Bayou Bienvenue ran southeastward from near New Orleans to Lake Borgne. Camp Villere was a few miles above its mouth.

of Colo. Dusongs and Cavalliers Regts—that the Legal application may be applied to enforce obedience. When such a spirit of unanimity has been exhibited accompanied with such display of ardent Patriotism, I cannot permit the Laurels of Lousiana to be Tarnished by the Lurking Demon of discord, that attempts to insinuate itself into her ranks. a Just

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punishment awaits all who for a moment forget themselves, and permit the destructive operation of this hidra. To crush this monster in the Bud, you are charged with the prompt and immediate execution of this order, and the order of yesterday.